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**Parent Survey: Aug – Oct 2006**

**Issue: ECIS & Flexible Support Packages**

*Q. Who should complete this survey? A. Any parent waiting for or receiving an early childhood intervention service as well as anyone who has applied for a Victorian State Government ECIS- Flexible Support Package.*  
*Q. Can I complete this survey online? A: Unfortunately no. The document should be printed and completed manually and then faxed or posted to the Autism Victoria office.*

Dear Parent,

*It has come to our attention that the application process for Early Childhood Intervention Services Flexible Support Packages (ECIS FSP's) is lengthy and difficult and that demand for packages far exceeds the number available. In response we have developed this survey, the results of which will help us to effectively inform the Government about these issues. To assist us, please complete and return by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2006** by fax (03) 9885 0508 or post (PO Box 235 Ashburton 3147). You are welcome to write any additional information on extra pages.*

*Please tick the box for the most appropriate response where applicable:-*

Name & Phone no: (optional).....can we contact you?  Y  N  
 Are you interested in your experience being profiled in a media story about this issue?  Y  N  
 Age of Child..... What is your DHS Region?.....

**Q1.** If you are aware of the ECIS flexible support packages, how did you find out about them?

ECIS Provider  Another Parent  Support Group  Other.....

**If you have applied for a flexible support package, please complete Q 2 – 10.**

**Q2.** What was the date of your application?...../ ...../ 2006

**Q3.** Applying for support for your child can sometimes be stressful. How do you rate the ECIS FSP application process?

Very Stressful  Moderately Stressful  Not very stressful  Not stressful at all

Comments (including length of time taken to complete) .....

**Q4.** Applications request information about your child's complex support needs. Was your ECIS Provider or another professional also involved in completing the application?

Yes  No Comments (including the amount of time they spent on your application if known) .....

**Q5.** The process involving identification, diagnosis, access to ECIS, together with applications for support at kindergarten (KIS); childcare (SNSS); and School (ENQ) is comprehensive. Considering that you are already using (or waiting for) an ECIS service how would you rate the importance for FSP providers to utilise the information about your family that already exists?

Very Important  Important  Not very Important  Not important at all

**Q6.** Was your application successful?  Yes  No

**Q7.** If successful, what is your FSP value \$.....

Q8. What will your package purchase?

Q9. These packages were announced in May 2005 and became available from April 2006 or later in some regions. Timely access to services has a positive impact upon the wellbeing of a family. What date did you/will you begin to receive the services purchased? ...../...../ 2006

Q10. There have been more applications for packages than the 355 packages available. If your application was not successful, have you been placed on a waiting list for the next round of allocations?

Yes  No Comments:.....

**All respondents should answer Q 11 – 16.**

Q11. Early feedback suggests that applicants are prevented or discouraged from purchasing therapy if your child already receives therapy through your ECIS provider. How would you rate the importance of being able to purchase additional therapy services through your ECIS provider?

Very Important  Important  Not Very Important  Not Important at all

Q12. Thinking about your current early childhood intervention services, please describe the **types** (eg. OT, parent education etc) of services and the **intensity** ( e.g. hours per week, and number of weeks per year) of services you and your family receive from your ECIS provider.

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Q13. How would you rate your level of satisfaction of the **types** of services you receive?

Very Satisfied  Satisfied  Not Very Satisfied  Not satisfied at all

Q14. How would you rate your satisfaction of the **intensity** of services you and your family receive?

Very Satisfied  Satisfied  Not Very Satisfied  Not satisfied at all

Q15. How long did you have to wait for these services? .....

Q16. This initiative recognizes that children with an ASD are a priority and that current ECIS places valued at about \$4800.00 p.a. do not meet their individual, high and complex needs. Enhancing ECIS places for children with high and complex needs would aim to supply adequate levels of therapeutic interventions and support services to assist a child’s development to meet *all* the needs of the family. How would you rate the importance of creating “Enhanced ECIS Places” for children with an ASD?

Very important  Important  Not Very Important  Not Important at all

Would you like to receive regular email updates of Autism Victoria lobbying activities?  Yes  No

If yes, what is your email address?.....

*Thank you for supporting our efforts to raise this issue with Government.*



Meredith Ward  
Government & Public Relations Liaison